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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ALCATEL WIRELESS, INC.** [US/US]; 3400 West Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75075 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **XU, Jianming** [US/US]; 4305 Vanderpool Drive, Plano, Texas 75024 (US). **VEMPATI, Brahmananda** [US/US]; 18852 Haddington Lane, Dallas, TX 75287 (US).
- (74) Agent: **SMITH, Jessica**; Alcatel Wireless, Inc., 3400 West Plano Parkway, M/S LEGL2, Plano, TX 75075 (US).

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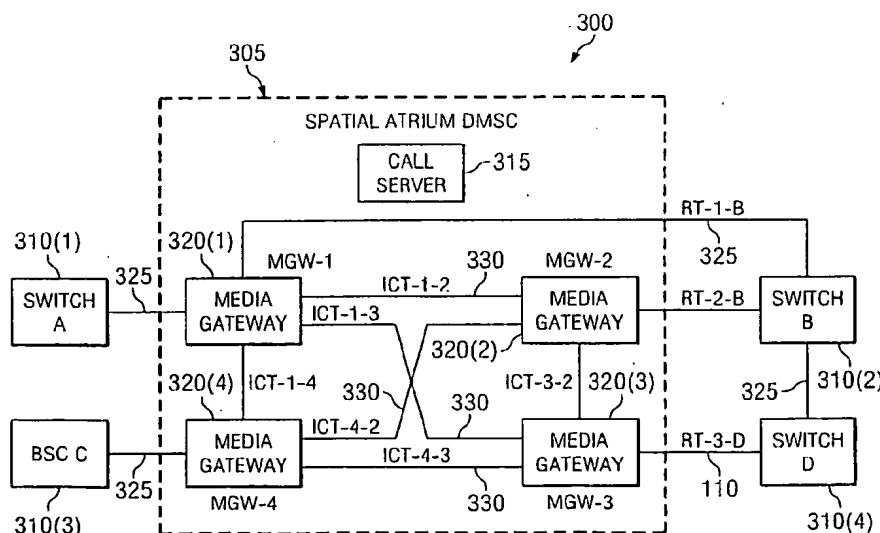
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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MEDIA GATEWAY INTERCONNECTION ROUTING IN A DISTRIBUTED MOBILE SWITCHING CENTER ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: Calls are routed in a distributed mobile switching center environment in response to receiving a call to be routed from a first switching mode (310(1)) to a second switching node (310(2)). An inter-switch route for the call from the first switching node to the second switching node is identified. The inter-switch route includes an intermediate switching node (305) having multiple media gateway (320). An intra-switch route within the intermediate switching node is selected from multiple possible intra-switch routes for use in establishing the inter-switch route. Each of the intra-switch routes includes one or more interconnections (330) between media gateways. The call is connected using the identified inter-switch route and the selected intra-switch route.

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